New Coal Washeries

*319. SHRI LAL BABU RAI:
SHRI S.B. THORAT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Coal washeries proposed to be opened by the Coal India Limited during the next three years and the locations thereof;

(b) whether the Government propose to hand over these Coal washeries to private and multinational companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) (a) The details of new coal washeries being set up under Coal India Limited are given below:-

S. No.	*Location*	*Capacity (mt pa.)*	*Remarks*
1.	Madhuband (Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.)	2.5	for coking coal to be supplied to steel plants
2.	Kedla (Central Coalfields Ltd.)	2.6	—do—
3.	Bina (Northern Coalfields Ltd.)	4.5	for Non-Coking coal to be supplied to power houses.
4.	Piparwar (Central Coalfields Ltd.)	6.5	—do—

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Foreign Technology and Patent Rights

*320. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to remove all restrictions for the import of foreign technology and for the protection of Patent Rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to affect the development of indigenous technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). As spelt out the Statement on Industrial Policy tabled in both Houses of Parliament ton 24th July, 1991:-

(i) The Reserve Bank of India accords automatic permission for foreign technology agreements upto a lumpsum payment of Rs. 1 crore, 5% royalty for domestic sales and

8% for exports, subjects to total payments of 8% of sales over a ten year period from date of agreement of seven years from commencement of production.

(ii) other proposals need specific approval of the Government under the general procedures in force.

The facility for automatic approval for technology agreements has been extended with a view to injecting the desived level of tecnological dynamism in Indian industry. Indian companies will be free to negotiate the terms of technology transfer with their foreign counterparts according to their own commercial judgement. The predictability and independence of action which this measure is providing to Indian industry will induce them to develop indigenous competence for the efficient absorption of foreign technology. Greater competitive pressure will also induce indigenous industry to invest substantially in research and development.

Government have no proposal to amend the Patents Act, 1970.

Groundnut Oil

*321. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of groundnut oil produced during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) the target fixed for 1991-92; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of groundnut oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHEMD): (a) The total groundnut oil produced during 1988-89 and 1990-91 were as under:-

Year	*Quantity (in lakh MT)*
1988-89	22.22
1989-90	18.63
1990-91	17.53

(b) The target fixed for production of oilseeds including groundnut for 1991-92 is 18.5 million tonnes.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

1. Two centrally sponsored schemes namely National Oilseeds Development Projects (NDDP) and Oilseeds Production Thrust Projects (OPTP) which were operating till 1989-90 have been merged during 1990-91 into a single scheme namely Oilseeds Production Programmes (OPP). This schemes essentially provides essential assistance to the States for production and distribution of quality seeds plant protection measures including supply of plant protection chemicals and equipments and organising demonstration of advanced technology, with particular reference to mustard, groundnut, soyabean and sunflower.

2. Supporting oilseeds projects of NDDB.

3. Setting up of a Technology Mission on Oilseeds established in May, 1986 for harnessing the best of production, processing and management technologies.

4. Intensification of research efforts for increasing the production of oilseeds.

5. Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.